

Application No. 10/618,909
Amendment "B" dated September 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed August 19, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance for the above-identified application are now respectfully requested. Claims 1-64 are pending, wherein claims 1, 17, 36, 37, 48, 49 and 57 have been amended to correct the minor informalities identified in the Office Action.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 17, 36, 37, 48, 49 and 57 as suggested by the Examiner but with modifications that Applicants believe provide additional clarity. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants submit that claims 1-64 fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-64 are allowable over the art of record, including Zhou (US 6,740,615) and Heidemann (US 6,528,683), which are identified by the Examiner as "the closest references". It is Applicants' understanding that the claims distinguish over Heidemann because the process disclosed in Heidemann does not yield an intermediate complex that, after being applied to a support, inherently forms a supported catalyst in which the catalyst atoms on an upper surface of reactive catalyst particles have a nearest neighbor coordination number of 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-64 as now presented are in allowable form.

Finally, Applicants invite the Examiner to compare claims 1-64 of the present application with the claims of U.S. application No. 10/618,808, also filed July 14, 2003 by the same inventors, for the purpose of determining whether any issues exist relating to statutory and non-statutory (*i.e.*, obviousness-type) double patenting.

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application, which may be clarified through a telephone interview or that may be overcome by examiner amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 2nd day of September 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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